

U. S. Studies Red Note On 'Border Violations'

Three Military Flights Last Week
Over Russian Territory Charged 1/11/5

By EARL H. VOSS

State Department officials expect it will take several days for the United States to react to yesterday's Soviet protest that American military aircraft flew deep into White Russia and Lithuania on three occasions last week.

Soviet Ambassador Georgi Zaroubin handed Secretary of State Dulles a formal note of protest yesterday afternoon. He told reporters after he came out of Mr. Dulles' office that he had complained about United States "overflights" as far as 200 miles inside the Soviet Union in the areas around Minsk, Pinsk, Kaliningrad and Vilna.

The note was translated overnight. Today it will be referred to the Air Force.

Came as Surprise

Press Officer Lincoln White said yesterday afternoon that the State Department then knew "absolutely nothing about this."

The Air Force was expected to refer the protest to its subordinate command in West Germany, whence the planes came, according to a Soviet radio broadcast.

Defense Department officials were doubtful that the military

Text of Russian Note as Made Public in Moscow. Page A-15

would make any comment on the incident. They recalled the sharp reaction of the State Department earlier this year when Air Force Secretary Donald Quarles volunteered information on American weather balloons which the Soviet Union complained were flying over its territory with high-powered camera equipment in the gondolas.

His reports conflicted with early comments of Secretary Dulles and resulted in a clamp-down in the Pentagon on weather balloon information.

Propaganda Purposes

Washington observers were hesitant to comment on the merits of the Soviet charges, but they saw at least two Communist propaganda purposes that the protest serves.

First, they believe, it will bolster the Communist campaign, now gathering momentum to pin on the United States the blame for "instigating" the Polish bread and freedom rebellion.

The cities above which the American planes are alleged to

have made overflights are near Poland's eastern border. The Communists may see a connection between these events.

3 Nations Accuse U. S.

So far, three Red governments—in Poland, East Germany and the Soviet Union—have charged that United States agents were fomenting Polish unrest which erupted in Poznan late last month.

Observers speculated the protest also might be intended to discredit the United States' persistent demands for aerial inspection as a means of disarmament.

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ment control. A major Soviet contention has been that President Eisenhower's purpose in proposing reciprocal aerial inspection at the Geneva conference last summer was to spy on the Soviet Union.

The new Communist charge helps to confirm that accusation.

State Department officials wondered aloud about the reaction of the Soviets' air defense to the American overflights.

If neither Soviet anti-aircraft nor fighters rose to challenge the alleged intruders, it would mark the first recorded Soviet lapse in air defense since 1945. In all known previous cases of American violation or threats to violate Soviet air space, Red defenders have been quick and ruthless in their reactions.

1955 Incident Recalled

These violent reactions have been uninhibited by peace offensives in the past. The most recent incident occurred June 22, 1955. Two Soviet jet fighters fired on an American naval patrol plane over international water in the Bering straits. In a crash landing on St. Lawrence Island four crewmen were injured; three others were hit by the Soviet planes' fire.

The incident occurred while United Nations delegates were gathering in San Francisco to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the U.N.'s founding. Moscow was just cranking up its current peace offensive.

Secretary Dulles protested to Soviet Foreign Minister Molotov and Moscow agreed to pay 50 per cent of the damage to the American plane.

Curious About Restraint

It is hard for observers here to believe that the Communists the invasions of Soviet air space occurred as reported.

What would be the reaction, they asked, if a Communist bread and freedom revolt in Mexico were followed up a few days later with Soviet overflights in Texas?

In this nuclear age, they said, Gen. Curtis Le May would have his Strategic Air Command in the air at the first report of invasion. Such an overflight, even if it were merely a feint, could be the cause for starting World War III.

Ambassador Zaroubin claimed the American overflights occurred July 4, 5 and 9. He characterized the alleged incident as a "gross violation of Soviet air space." He said some of the planes remained over Soviet territory 2½ hours.

Previous Protest Disclosed

Later the Soviet Embassy disclosed it had protested to the State Department in mid-May about American flights over northern and eastern Soviet territory on April 5, 12, 15 and 18.

The Kremlin also added to the list of cities said to have been passed over by American planes in July. They were Kaunas, Baranovichi and Brest, all in the Lithuania - Byelorussia (White Russia) area.

A Moscow radio broadcast heard in London said the planes came from Western Germany by way of Communist East Germany and Poland. Moscow said two of the planes were twin-engine medium bombers.

"The aforesaid violations of Soviet air space can only be assessed as deliberate and carried out for reconnaissance purposes," the broadcast quoted the protest note as saying. It described the flights as "deliberate action by certain United States elements to aggravate relations between the Soviet Union and the United States of America."



GEORGI N. ZARUBIN
Arriving at State Department
—Star Staff Photo

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